MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1286

H.P. 908

House of Representatives, February 16, 1999

An Act to Expand Economic Development Opportunity.

Reference to the Committee on Business and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

JOSEPH W. MAYO, Clerk

Presented by Representative GREEN of Monmouth. Cosponsored by Senator NUTTING of Androscoggin and Representatives: DUDLEY of Portland, GAGNON of Waterville, Senator: RUHLIN of Penobscot.

| | Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows: |
|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Sec. 1. 7 MRSA §435, sub-§2, ¶F is enacted to read: |
| | 0 |
| | F. An agricultural marketing loan for a start-up |
| | agricultural business or a business engaged in ethanol |
| | production or processing may be for an amount up to 80% of |
| | the total cost of the project, as long as the remaining 20% |
| | of the project cost is provided by the applicant or a |
| | financial institution. |
| | Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §384, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 699, |
| | 3, is amended to read: |
| | 1. Establishment; membership. There is established the |
| (| Small Enterprise Growth Board, which consists of 11 12 members |
| | appointed by the Governor as follows: |
| | A. An experienced commercial lender; |
| | |
| | B. An attorney with knowledge of securities law; |
| | C. Five members of the public who have knowledge and |
| | • |
| | experience in managing or investing in high-growth small |
| | businesses; |
| | D. Three members of the public who have knowledge and |
| | experience in the development of technological innovation |
| | and or knowledge of natural resources; |
| | and of wholesoft of whomens sodde off, |
| | E. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development |
| | or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve as a voting |
| | ex officio member of the board+; and |
| | The state of the s |
| | F. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural |
| | Resources or the commissioner's designee, who shall serve as |
| | a voting ex officio member of the board. |
| | |
| | Sec. 3. 10 MRSA §386, sub-§1, ¶H, as enacted by PL 1995, c. |
| (| 599, §3, is amended to read: |
| | |
| | H. Production or processing of value-added goods from |
| | natural resources including ethanol processing facilities; or |
| | |
| | Sec. 4. 10 MRSA §386, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 699, |
| | §3, is amended to read: |
| | 2. Growth; public benefit. The qualifying small business |
| | must demonstrate the potential for high growth and public benefit |
| | except for those enterprises engaged in production or processing |
| | of value-added goods from natural resources or ethanol processing. |
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| | | Sec. 5. 10 MRSA §388, sub-§2, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 69 | 9, |
|---|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 2 | §3, | is amended to read: | |
| | | | |

2. Provide evidence. The qualifying small business must provide evidence satisfactory to the board of matching funds in cash in an amount equal to the disbursement. Such matching funds may be in the form of debt or equity, but must be at risk in the qualifying small business for a minimum of 5 years. In the case of natural resource-based businesses, the amount of matching funds may be in cash in a negotiable amount that is less than the disbursement.

Sec. 6. 10 MRSA §389, as enacted by PL 1995, c. 699, §3, is amended to read:

§389. Cooperation and coordination

The University of Maine System, the Small Business Development Center Program, the Maine World Trade Association and, the Maine Science and Technology Foundation and other state agencies shall provide such support and assistance as the board may request, within the expertise of each.

SUMMARY

This bill adds the Commissioner of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources as a member of the Small Enterprise Growth Board. The bill also adds ethanol production or processing facilities as a business that qualifies for funding under the Small Enterprise Growth Program.